

Petitioning for Residential Street Paving



There are about 100 miles of dirt streets in Wichita, not counting alleys. Many are in areas developed before paving was a requirement, or were annexed by the City after development.

How does a paving project get started?

An average of 1.5 miles of dirt streets are paved each year. They are paved when the City receives a petition signed by the property owners within an *improvement district*.

Who pays for the new street?

Property owners in the improvement district pay for the project. The improvement district is determined when the petition is prepared by the City Engineer's Office. Each lot may have up to two paving assessments - a front street and a side street. Sometimes, a property owner does not live on or even use his/her side street. An information sheet and a map will be mailed out with the petition showing the lots involved, and the current owners of those lots.



How much will the street cost?

A cost estimate will be prepared with the petition. In most cases, each property owner will be responsible for a share of that cost, relative to the square footage of his/her lot. Therefore, larger lots will pay more than smaller lots. The information sheet included with the petition will show the square footage of each lot and the estimated cost per lot.

How do the property owners pay for the street?

When the project is completed and the final cost is calculated, statements will be mailed to each property owner. At that time, the property owner may pay cash for the assessment or let it automatically be in the City's next bond sale, spread over 15 or 20 years at a relatively low interest rate. The following November, the first assessment will be on his/her tax statement listed as a

special tax and will be due along with his/her property tax. The property owner may come in at any time during the 15 or 20 years to pay off the assessment and save the remaining interest.

How wide will my driveway be?

At the beginning of construction, the Contractor will come around door to door with driveway request forms for property owners to sign. At this time, the owner decides on the width and location of his/her drive approach. Driveways are assessed to the property owner and generally cost about \$1200-\$1400. Additional driveways are allowed.

What if some people can't afford the cost of paving?

The City has a deferral program for property owners who fall within certain income guidelines. If the property owner qualifies, the assessment will be deferred and he/she will not have to pay the specials. The assessment will stay with the property, however, and will have to be paid by the next owner. Application for deferral is not made until the project is constructed and statements are mailed out. For an application for deferral, call the Debt Management division of Finance at 268-4528.

How do I get a petition?

To request a dirt street paving petition (within the city limits) call the

City Engineer's Office at 268-4501.

How many signatures are needed?

A valid paving petition has signatures of over 50% of the number of owners in the improvement district, or signatures representing over 50% of the square footage in the improvement district.

Does everyone have to be contacted?

If there are enough signatures for a valid petition, it may be turned in to the City Clerk's Office. Not everyone has to be contacted. The City Engineer's Office will notify all of the owners in the improvement district by *certified letter* if the petition is valid.

What about the people who are against paving the street?

If there is a valid petition, property owners who are against the paving project are advised to attend the City Council meeting that will be announced in the certified letter they will receive. At the City Council meeting, property owners will be invited to speak - for or against the project. If the project is approved by the City Council, all owners in the improvement district will have to pay their share of the project cost, whether or not they signed the petition.

How long will it take, once the

petition is turned in?

Once the petition is turned in, expect to wait about two months for the City Council meeting. If the project is approved, the design process may take between six months and one year. After that, the actual construction time is about four weeks for a one-block project.

What streets have been petitioned recently?

The City Engineer's Office has information about which petitions have been turned in. Call 268-4501.

I just want to have my street graded.

For information about dirt street grading, call the Street Maintenance Office at 268-4060.

What if I have more questions?

You may call the City Engineer's Office at 268-4501.

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